

CLAIMS

- 1 Process of communication by electronic mail between two terminals (30, 40) of a computer network (100) during which, in the transmitting terminal, data controlling the execution of a management operation are inserted into electronic mail and the mail is sent to the receiving terminal (40) and, in the receiving terminal (40), the meaning of the control data is sought and, if appropriate, the execution of the said operation is initiated.
- 2 Process of communication according to claim 1, wherein, the said mail comprising a message, the said control data are inserted into the said message.
- 3 Process of communication according to claim 2, wherein, the mail comprising a file of specific format attached to the message and the said message comprising a field of descriptors of the file format, the said control data are inserted into the said descriptor field.
- 4 Process according to claim 2, wherein during reception the said message is checked in order to capture the said control data.
- 5 Process of communication according to claim 2, wherein, in the transmitting terminal (30), the message has inserted into it control data for transmission of an acknowledgement of reception and an address of the transmitting terminal and, in the receiving terminal (40), the address of the transmitting terminal (30) is captured and mail for acknowledging reception is prepared, which is sent to the transmitting terminal (30).
- 6 Process of communication according to claim 5, wherein, in the transmitting terminal (30), the message has inserted into it a mail reference and, in the receiving terminal (40), the mail reference is captured and inserted into the mail for acknowledging reception.
- 7 Process of communication according to claim 6, wherein, in the receiving terminal (40),

the mail for acknowledging reception containing a message, control data for the validation of the reception of the mail are inserted into the said message and, in the transmitting terminal (30), the reference of the mail sent to the receiving terminal (40) is stored and, upon reception of the mail for acknowledging reception, the meaning of the control data is sought and the reception of the mail, of which the reference is indicated in the mail for acknowledging reception, is validated.

- 8 Process of communication according to claim 6, wherein the transmitting terminal (30) stores the mail reference with which an indicator of a state of awaiting acknowledgement of reception is associated, after transmission of the said mail, the period of time since the indicator associated with the reference has indicated a state of awaiting transmission is evaluated regularly and if the said period exceeds a predetermined threshold, the indicator of the state of awaiting acknowledgement of reception is replaced by an alarm state indicator.
- 9 Process of communication according to claim 8, wherein, in the transmitting terminal (30), the mail sent is copied into a memory and, if the indicator associated with the mail reference indicates an alarm state, the said mail is sent again to the receiving terminal (40).
- 10 Process of communication according to claim 2, wherein, in the transmitting terminal (30), control data for transmission of capabilities are inserted into the mail message then, in the receiving terminal (40), after reception of the said mail, further mail is prepared containing a message into which control data for recording capabilities associated with the capabilities of the receiving terminal (40) are inserted, the said further mail is sent to the transmitting terminal and finally, in the said transmitting terminal (30), the meaning of the said control data is sought and the recording of the capabilities of the receiving terminal (40) is initiated.
- 11 Process of communication according to claim 2, wherein , in the transmitting terminal (30), control data for retransmission to another receiving terminal are inserted into the

message and, in the receiving terminal (40), the mail is retransmitted to the other receiving terminal.

- 12 Process of communication according to claim 2, wherein, in the transmitting terminal (30), control data for printing the said mail are inserted into the said mail message and, in the receiving terminal (40), the printing of the said mail is commanded.
- 13 Process of communication according to claim 1, wherein, the mail containing a message, to which a file of specific format, and information on the format of the file is attached, in the receiving terminal (40), the information on the format of the file is captured and it is determined whether it is possible to reconstruct the file and, if this is not possible, notification of non-comprehension is sent to the transmitting terminal (30).
- 14 Terminal for implementation of the process of claim 1, comprising means (20) for receiving electronic mail and means (3, 5, 10, 12, 14, 17) for executing management operations, characterised in that it also comprises means (22) for seeking the meaning of control data for execution of a management operation, which are inserted into mail received and means (22, 1) for initiating, if appropriate, the execution of the said management operation under the said control.
- 15 Terminal according to claim 14, wherein the said control data being contained in a received mail message, means (23) are provided to checking the said message in order to capture the said control data.
- 16 Terminal according to claim 15, wherein the mail comprising a data file attached to the message, and the said message comprising a field of descriptors of the presentation structure of the data of the file containing the said control data, the means (23) for checking the message are arranged to check the descriptor field.
- 17 Terminal according to claim 14, arranged to transmit electronic mail, wherein means (12) are provided to allocate, to mail transmitted containing control data for

transmission of an acknowledgement of reception, a mail reference associated with an indicator to indicate a state of awaiting acknowledgement of reception and means (12) for replacing the said indicator of a state of awaiting acknowledgement of reception by an indicator of validated reception of the mail upon reception of mail containing control data for validation of the reception of the mail.

- 18 Terminal according to claim 14, comprising reconstruction means (2, 5) intended to reconstruct a file of given format attached to mail received, coming from a transmitting terminal and containing information of the format on the said file, wherein means (2) are provided to input the file format in order to determine if the said reconstruction means (2, 5) can reconstruct the file and means (13, 1, 14) to transmit to the transmitting terminal a notification of non-comprehension if the reconstruction means (2, 5) are unable to do this.